

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: MAIL STOP ____, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW:

BY:

Russell M. Alvarez

DATE: *March 1, 2004*

PATENT
MAIL STOP ____



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re: Patent Application of : Group Art Unit: 1637
Clark Rundell *et al.* :
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Appln. No.: 09/866,283 : Examiner: Teresa E. Strzelecka
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Filed: May 25, 2001 :
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:
For: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS: Attorney Docket
RELATING TO NUCLEIC ACID : No.: 053650-5001
REFERENCE STANDARDS :

AMENDMENT

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated September 29, 2003, sent in connection with the above-referenced application.

This Amendment is being timely filed in view of the accompanying Petition for a Two Month Extension of Time, and associated fee, which extends the time for a response to the Office Action to and through March 1, 2004, in view of February 29, 2004, being a Sunday.

Kindly amend the application as follows: